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ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights

Chairperson: Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin

Report of the Secretary-General

The attached report of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation is circulated to the Commission on Human Rights pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/69, in which the Commission requested the Secretary-General to include the report of the Board of Trustees on its activities in his annual report to the Commission on Human Rights on advisory services and technical cooperation.

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Introduction

1. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1993/87, requested the Secretary-General to appoint a board of trustees for the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights to advise the Secretary-General on the administration and operation of the Fund; and requested the Board of Trustees to assist the Secretary-General in streamlining and rationalizing the procedures of the Fund, including developing long-term policy guidelines, reviewing specific projects, reviewing all financial aspects of the Fund with regard to transparency and accountability, reviewing cooperation with other organizations with regard to project evaluation and follow-up, and reviewing implementation of decisions of the Board of Trustees. The Board was also requested to promote and solicit contributions to the Fund.

2. Pursuant to this resolution, the Secretary-General appointed, in November 1993, the following five persons with wide experience in the field of human rights and in technical cooperation to serve as members of the Board, acting in their personal capacity: Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium), Mr. Kinhide Mushakoji (Japan), Mr. Luis Pérez Aguirre (Uruguay), Mr. Krzysztof Skubiszewski (Poland) and Dr. Leila I. Takla (Egypt).

3. In its resolution 1994/69 of 9 March 1994, the Commission welcomed the appointment of the Board of Trustees and urged the Board to review the existing project guidelines with a view to improving orientation for Governments requesting advisory services, establishing clear criteria for selecting and defining priorities for projects, as well as establishing an efficient and flexible project preparation, implementation and evaluation procedure.

4. The Board held its first and second sessions at the United Nations Office at Geneva, from 28 February to 4 March 1994 and from 7 to 10 November 1994, respectively.

5. In the above-mentioned resolutions, the Commission also requested that the report of the Board of Trustees on their activities be included in the Secretary-General's annual report to the Commission on Human Rights on advisory services and technical cooperation. The present report of the second session is submitted pursuant to that request.

Executive summary

6. Pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/87, the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund was established to advise the Secretary-General on the administration and operation of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights. The creation of the Board was intended to strengthen the capacity and enhance the quality of the Voluntary Fund, which has expanded in order to respond to the increasing requests from countries in transition to democracy.

7. The Board of Trustees held its first session in March 1994 with the primary aim of examining the existing administration and operation of the Voluntary Fund in project preparation, implementation and evaluation, and of establishing provisional rules and criteria under which the Board could carry out its functions effectively, both during its sessions and in the inter-sessional periods.

8. Between its first and second sessions, the Board received, and considered the action proposed for, eight new requests for assistance, as well as six programmes and projects elaborated by the Centre for Human Rights.

9. During its second session held at Geneva from 7 to 10 November, the Board considered and endorsed country programmes for Burundi, Malawi, Mongolia, Nepal and the Russian Federation in the presence of representatives of the respective Governments. The Board also paid special attention to, and took action on, a request and proposal made by the Government of Rwanda, who through its Minister of Justice, addressed the Board.

10. As a follow-up to the work of its first session, the Board examined and discussed the financial situation of the Fund, the procedure for project preparation and evaluation, and fund-raising activities.

11. In order to solicit contributions, and in view of the precarious financial situation of the Voluntary Fund, the Board participated in a meeting with contributing Governments to the Fund, which was convened, upon closure of the session, by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.

12. In the light of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and Commission on Human Rights resolutions in which the Secretary-General was requested to ensure more transparent management rules and activities of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, the Board decided to request the Centre for Human Rights to organize, on a regular basis, similar information meetings open to all member States involved in the technical cooperation programme.

I. DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT ITS SECOND SESSION

13. The following decisions were adopted by the Board at its second session.

1994/1. Frequency of the session of the Board of Trustees

At its 1st meeting, on 7 November 1994, the Board decided to hold at least two sessions a year, the first preferably during the session of the Commission on Human Rights and the second for one week in October/November.

1994/2. Organization of work

At its 1st meeting, on 7 November 1994, the Board decided to invite the following United Nations services and Government representatives to participate in its meetings:

(a) In connection with items 4 and 8: Financial Resources Management Service, United Nations Office at Geneva (Accounts Section; Programme Planning and Budget Section);

(b) In connection with item 4: the United Nations Board of Auditors;

(c) In connection with item 5: the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E. Mr. Alphonso-Marie Nkubito, and representatives of the Governments of Bhutan, Burundi, Mongolia, Nepal and the Russian Federation.

1994/3. Fund-raising for the Voluntary Fund

At its 1st meeting, on 7 November 1994, the Board, taking note of paragraph 20 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/87 and bearing in mind its role in fund-raising, as well as the level of funds currently available in the Fund, decided to intensify its efforts to raise funds and propose to the Secretary-General to convene at Geneva a meeting of all regular contributors to the Fund, during each session of the Board, where the Board would be represented, with the aim of soliciting contributions for specific country programmes and other projects approved by the Secretary-General which require a significant level of funding and, where appropriate, to invite all countries interested in the activities of the Voluntary Fund to the above-mentioned meeting. The Board also requested the Secretary-General to allocate the necessary resources for fund-raising activities.

1994/4. Technical cooperation projects for Bhutan, Burundi, Malawi, Mongolia, Nepal and the Russian Federation

At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 7 and 8 November 1994, the Board, expressing its appreciation to the representatives of the Governments of Burundi, Mongolia, Nepal and the Russian Federation for their participation in the meeting, taking note of paragraph 19 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/87, having considered the project documents submitted to the Board and confirmed that the projects described in the documents were consistent with the objectives of the Voluntary Fund and with the criteria

for project selection adopted under agenda item 6 at its current session, decided to endorse and to recommend that the Secretary-General take the following action:

(a) Continue implementing a country programme of technical assistance to Burundi, to be reviewed by the Board at its next session, and to provide awards in the amount of $500 for five individuals whose courageous and humanitarian acts cross barriers of tribal and ethnic animosity, thus creating an atmosphere more conducive to peace and reconciliation, and consider the Board's involvement in the forthcoming regional meeting in Bujumbura, which would serve to coordinate the whole of the United Nations activities in the region;

(b) Approve a country programme of technical assistance to Malawi;

(c) Continue implementation of a country programme of technical assistance to Mongolia;

(d) Approve a pilot country programme of technical assistance to Nepal with the understanding that the document submitted would be duly revised following a needs assessment;

(e) Approve a country programme of technical assistance to the Russian Federation.

The Board also decided to consider the Bhutan country programme for endorsement at its 3rd session, at the request of the Government of Bhutan, so that Bhutan may be present during the consideration.

1994/5. Request from Rwanda for technical assistance

At its 4th meeting, on 8 November 1994, the Board, bearing in mind the urgent and exceptional situation in Rwanda, and having considered a proposal for assistance submitted by H.E. Mr. A. M. Nkubito, Minister of Justice of Rwanda, as well as taking note of the operational plan for Rwanda prepared by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, decided to recommend that the Secretary-General take the following immediate action under the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights:

(a) Develop and implement as a matter of urgency a technical assistance project, for an amount of up to $100,000, to reconstruct the Ministry of Justice;

(b) Provide awards in the amount of $500 for five individuals whose courageous and humanitarian acts cross barriers of tribal and ethnic animosity, thus creating an atmosphere more conducive to peace and reconciliation;

(c) Undertake needs assessment, in which the Board wishes to be involved, in order to formulate a comprehensive programme of assistance, which will be reviewed by the Board at its next session.

1994/6. Request from Barbados for assistance

At its 6th meeting, on 9 November 1994, the Board, referring to a letter from the Caribbean Human Rights Network regarding funding for a seminar being organized in Barbados on "Criminal justice and the role of sentencing", and taking note of the action taken by the Centre for Human Rights, decided to request the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to cover any negative financial consequences for the organizers of the seminar.

1994/7. Secretariat of the Voluntary Fund

At its 4th meeting, on 8 November 1994, the Board, taking note of paragraph 13 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/69, in which the Commission requested the Secretary-General to provide the Board with the necessary administrative assistance in order to make it possible for it to fulfil its mandate, decided to reiterate the request to the Secretary-General that a coordinator of the Voluntary Fund be appointed or recruited as soon as possible, who could serve as secretary of the Board in order to coordinate the work of the Board with the Secretary-General, including fund-raising activities for the Fund.

1994/8. Evaluation of projects

At its 6th meeting, on 9 November 1994, the Board, taking note of paragraph 12 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/69, and having reviewed the evaluation procedure, decided to request the Secretary-General to elaborate criteria for the evaluation of projects, taking into account the experience of other United Nations agencies, to be presented to the Board at its third session. In this context, the Board also decided to review the evaluation of the programmes for Albania and Romania at its third session.

1994/9. Criteria for selecting and defining priorities for projects

At its 6th meeting, on 9 November 1994, the Board, taking note of paragraph 19 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/87 and paragraph 26 of Commission resolution 1994/69, and referring to the substantive criteria for selecting and defining priorities for projects (TCB/BT1/1/Annex 5) which were adopted at its first session, decided to continue to apply the criteria in defining priority and selecting projects.

1994/10. Reimbursement of telecommunications expenses

At its 4th meeting, on 8 November 1994, the Board decided to reiterate its request that the telecommunications expenses incurred by Board members in the discharge of their functions be reimbursed in accordance with principles/guidelines to be established by the United Nations.

1994/11. Promotion of the Voluntary Fund

At its 7th meeting, on 10 November 1994, the Board decided to reiterate its request that a flyer and a booklet be produced explaining the principal

objectives of the Voluntary Fund, giving samples of activities, setting out the procedure to be followed and including the composition of the Board of Trustees.

1994/12. Date and venue of the third session of the Board of Trustees

At its 1st meeting, on 7 November 1994, the Board decided to hold its third session at Geneva, at the Palais des Nations, from 13 to 17 February 1995.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SECOND SESSION

(a) Opening and duration of the session

14. The Board held its second session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 7 to 10 November 1994. The High Commissioner for Human Rights addressed the Board at the opening of this session.

(b) Attendance

15. The second session was attended by the following members of the Board: Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin, Mr. Kinhide Mushakoji, Mr. Luis Pérez Aguirre and Dr. Leila I. Takla. Mr. Krzysztof Skubiszewski was unable to attend, owing to the unforeseen change of the dates of the session.

(c) Election of officers

16. At its first session, on 28 February 1994, the Board elected Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin Chairperson and Dr. Leila Takla Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.

(d) Agenda

17. At the 1st meeting of its second session, the Board had before it the provisional agenda (TCB/BT2/1). The agenda was adopted by the Board without amendment. For the text as adopted, see annex I to the present report.

(e) Organization of work

18. At the 1st meeting of its second session, the Board considered the organization of the work of the session. Bearing in mind the respective priority of the items and the availability of the visitors, in particular, the Minister of Justice of Rwanda, and members of the Board at each meeting, as well as the fact that Mr. Mushakoji would have to leave on 10 November, the Board accepted the recommendations of the Chairperson that the agenda items should be considered in the following order: 2, 3, 9, 5, 4, 5, 7, 6, 8, 9, 10.

19. The Board also decided that a meeting with the contributing Governments to the Voluntary Fund should be institutionalized and held during the session of the Board. It should be noted in this regard that the Board participated

in the meeting with the contributing Governments to the Fund which was organized by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on 11 November 1994.

20. At the same meeting, upon the recommendation of the Chairperson and suggestions made to this effect during its first session, the Board decided to invite government representatives of the countries for which programmes of technical assistance had been elaborated and were to be considered, to participate in the meetings under agenda item 5. The Board also agreed to the proposal made by the secretariat that each project would be introduced by a project officer responsible for that project, followed by statements by government representatives. The Board also agreed to invite financial officers and an external auditor who was in Geneva during the week of this session.

21. The Board considered it necessary that it attend the session of the Commission on Human Rights in order to present its report.

22. The Board adopted a draft decision concerning participation at the second session, under agenda item 3. For the text of the decision as adopted, see Chapter I, decision 1994/2.

III. FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE VOLUNTARY FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

23. The Board considered agenda item 4 at the 4th meeting of its second session, on 8 November. The Board had before it the following documents:

Tables of contributions to the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (TCB/BT2/2);

Statement of accounts for each ongoing project (TCB/BT2/3);

Statement of income and expenditure for the Voluntary Fund (TCB/BT2/4);

Status of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (TCB/BT2/5);

Financial situation report on the regular programme of technical cooperation (TCB/BT2/6).

24. Referring to the documents relating to item 4, the secretariat provided the Board with the following background information on the financial documentation and comments on the financial situation of the Voluntary Fund.

(a) General financial situation of the Voluntary Fund

25. As at 31 October 1994, the Voluntary Fund had received $11,543,681 in total since its inception in 1987. Of that amount, $2,704,700 had been pledged or paid since January 1994, the highest amount pledged and/or contributed in any one year. It should be noted, however, that approximately 58 per cent of that amount was earmarked for the country programme of technical assistance to Burundi. While the funds raised for the Burundi programme should be considered a success, there was no guarantee that other country programmes of a similar size to the Burundi programme could achieve

the same success. It was also important to note that the Fund should finance a number of other smaller projects and for that purpose it should continue to receive unearmarked regular contributions.

26. The attention of the Board was also drawn to the document prepared by the secretariat on the status of the Voluntary Fund (TCB/BT2/5), and in particular to the fact that there had been a tendency in the past few years for Governments to earmark their contributions to specific projects or activities. In some cases, contributions had been earmarked for general ideas of projects which had not yet been formulated. If those contributions were excluded from the total amount of income, the funds available for actual projects which had not benefited from specific funding by donor Governments, were scarce. The funds available as of 3 November 1994 for such projects amounted to $210,880.

27. The Board requested the secretariat to provide it with a financial report on the Fund on a quarterly basis. Officials of the Financial Resources Management Service were present and clarified some budgetary issues raised by the Board, in addition to commenting on the above-mentioned financial document prepared by the secretariat.

28. In connection with the relationship between the Voluntary Fund and the regular budget in financing activities under the programme of technical cooperation, the Board was informed of the financial status of the regular budget. The Board was also informed about the distinction made in the use of resources between the regular budget and the Voluntary Fund. The Board was of the view that the regular budget resources should be fully utilized to fill a gap between the existing human resources and the increasing mandate of the Fund.

(b) Financial administration of the Fund

29. The attention of the Board was drawn to its request to the secretariat made at its first session. In agreement with the recommendation made by the internal auditor who conducted an audit of the Voluntary Fund in December 1993, the Board had requested the secretariat, in order to monitor closely expenditures under the Fund, to continue to prepare a financial statement on each project. The Board was informed that, as recommended by the Board, new projects referred to the Board after its first session had been given sub-accounts so that the financial status of each project could be easily identified.

30. Concerning the question of expediting the process of obtaining an authorization from the Financial Services, the Board took note with appreciation of the delegation of authority from New York to Geneva for the issuance of an allotment.

31. A member of the United Nations Board of Auditors who was on mission to Geneva was also present and made a statement on the duties of the auditor with regard to United Nations trust funds. The Board requested the secretariat to invite a member of the Board of Auditors to be present during its third session in order to discuss the comments made by the auditors on the management of technical cooperation projects.

IV. ROLE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN FUND-RAISING

32. The Board considered agenda item 7 during the 4th meeting of its second session, on 8 November 1994.

33. During this meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights addressed the Board. The Board was informed of the efforts being made in searching for a coordinator of the Fund to strengthen the secretariat of the Fund and of the Centre's perspectives for fund-raising activities. One member of the Board extended an invitation to the Assistant Secretary-General to visit Japan, which would also provide an opportunity for fund-raising.

34. The Board discussed various modalities of fund-raising for the programmes and decided that a meeting should be organized in Geneva with representatives of potential donor Governments in order to raise funds for the Fund for general and specific purposes.

35. The Board adopted a draft decision under agenda item 7. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter I, decision 1994/3.

V. CONSIDERATION OF PROJECTS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

36. The Board considered agenda item 5, at the 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings of its second session, on 7 and 8 November 1994. The Board had before it the following documents:

Projects and related activities referred to the Board of Trustees (March 1994 - present) (TCB/BT2/7);

Technical cooperation activities (TCB/BT2/8);

Project document for the programme of technical assistance to Burundi (TCB/BT2/8/Add.1);

Programme overview for the programme of technical assistance to Bhutan (TCB/BT2/8/Add.2);

Project document for the programme of technical assistance to Malawi (TCB/BT2/8/Add.3);

Project document for the programme of technical assistance to Mongolia (TCB/BT2/8/Add.4);

Programme overview for the programme of technical assistance to Nepal (TCB/BT2/8/Add.5);

Project document for the programme of technical assistance to the Russian Federation (TCB/BT2/8/Add.6);

Report on the evaluation of the Arab Institute for Human Rights (TCB/BT2/8/Add.7);

Request and proposal for assistance for Rwanda (TCB/BT2/8/Add.8, 9, 10);

Request from the Caribbean Human Rights Network (TCB/BT2/8/Add.11).

37. The attention of the Board was drawn to the list of projects and related activities, as well as to the fact sheets on each project and activity describing the type of assistance, duration, estimated cost and status. The secretariat provided the Board with information on the work carried out by the Technical Cooperation Branch in the preparation and implementation of the projects and activities, in particular during the period March - October 1994.

38. The Chairperson requested the secretariat to provide more information on all projects in hand, irrespective of whether they had been subject to the Board's consideration.

39. The Board reviewed the document (TCB/BT2/7) which showed consultations held between the secretariat and the Board on projects and related activities during the period March - October 1994. It was noted that all projects referred to the Board had been endorsed by the Assistant Secretary-General and all courses of action suggested by the secretariat on new requests had been approved. However, the Board also noted several cases of non-compliance with the procedure adopted during the first session of the Board.

40. The Board considered the following projects.

(a) Country programme of technical assistance to Burundi

41. The Chairperson drew attention to the fact that under the urgent procedure, the Board had recommended this project to be approved only for its 1994 programme. The secretariat explained that since its submission to the Board in June 1994, the project document had been reformulated in accordance with the existing guidelines and the cost plan had been drastically revised. As a result, the estimated cost of the project for a three-year period had increased from $1,248,000 to $3,142,000. It was noted that the current level of resources pledged or paid by the donors ($1,577,240) could cover the programme cost until the middle of 1995. Thus more funding was required.

42. A representative of the Permanent Mission of Burundi to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva addressed the Board of Trustees, expressing the Government's wish to extend the programme of technical assistance to a three-year period. It was suggested that this programme should aim to reach the entire population of Burundi. The representative concluded by reaffirming the Government's commitment to cooperating with the Centre for Human Rights.

43. The secretariat drew the attention of the Board to the current costs of the Burundi programme, and the current list of pledges and contributions made by donor countries.

44. The Board stressed the need for confidence-building measures to take into account the ethnic realities of Burundi in a comprehensive manner.

45. The project officer of the Centre for Human Rights addressed the Board and noted that in attempting to create a "human rights culture", the Centre had acted in concert with those people in Burundi who were capable of addressing cultural needs. It was also stated that technical cooperation activities must reconcile human rights with development needs.

46. The Board recommended the creation of awards, in the amount of US$ 500 each, for five cases of courageous and humanitarian acts which crossed the barriers of tribal and ethnic animosity, thus making for an atmosphere more conducive to peace and coexistence, and that consideration be given to the Board's involvement in the forthcoming regional meeting in Bujumbura, which would serve to coordinate all United Nations activities in the region.

47. The Board endorsed the continuation of the Burundi programme, to be reviewed by the Board at its next session.

(b) Country programme of technical assistance to Bhutan

48. In accordance with a request made by the Permanent Mission of Bhutan, the Board decided to postpone the consideration of the project for Bhutan until the third session.

(c) Country programme of technical assistance to Malawi

49. The project officer of the Centre gave a briefing on the country programme for Malawi, including all previous involvement of the Centre and the objectives and activities to be implemented in the current phase of the programme.

50. The Board noted that, in view of the great importance of educational activities, the budget for the implementation of educational activities should be increased.

51. The Board suggested that since programmes could provide a learning experience for the Centre for Human Rights, project evaluations should include successful activities as well as obstacles and difficulties.

52. The Board recommended that non-governmental organizations be consulted during implementation of the project.

53. The Board endorsed the country programme.

(d) Country programme of technical assistance to Mongolia

54. The project officer of the Centre gave a briefing on the ongoing project and the latest mission to the country.

55. A statement was also made by the Ambassador of Mongolia to the United Nations at Geneva.

56. The Board raised the issue of the importance of associating the civil society, and specifically non-governmental organizations, in the implementation of the project.

57. The Board recommended to continue with the implementation of the project activities as planned, and requested that the Centre keep the Board informed of the implementation of the project, in particular on the financial aspects.

(e) Country programme of technical assistance to Nepal

58. The project officer of the Centre presented the Nepal project and informed the Board of the activities to be undertaken in order to achieve the proposed objectives.

59. A representative of the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations Office at Geneva made a statement supporting the Centre's involvement in the country programme.

60. The Board recommended that in the case of assistance to non-governmental organizations, all types of groups be taken into consideration for the implementation of the activities envisaged.

61. The Board recommended that the situation of refugees in Nepal be taken into consideration when planning and implementing all programme activities, in view of the direct relationship between these persons and the objectives of the programme.

62. The Board endorsed the project.

(f) Country programme of technical assistance to the Russian Federation

63. The secretariat presented the project document for the country programme of technical assistance to the Russian Federation, relating to the publication and distribution of a children's picture book on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and support to non-governmental organizations.

64. A representative of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office at Geneva made a statement in support of the programme.

65. The Board stressed that, in the movement towards economic reform within the Russian Federation, existing social programmes aimed at improving human welfare must not be forgotten or dismantled.

66. The Board endorsed the implementation of both activities and requested the Centre to consider using this type of activity as a model for other countries.

67. The Board adopted a draft decision on the projects discussed under agenda item 5. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter I, decision 1994/4.

(g) Rwanda

68. The Chief of the Special Procedures Branch provided the Board with a chronological description of the Centre's involvement in Rwanda.

69. The secretariat informed the Board of the request for assistance submitted by the Government of Rwanda at the end of August 1994, through the field office of the Centre for Human Rights in Kigali, following the second official visit by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the country (TCB/BT2/8/Add.8).

70. The Board was informed by the secretariat that, in September 1994, the High Commissioner had launched an appeal for support for his Plan of Action, in which technical cooperation activities were included as one of the three components of the human rights field operation. The Plan of Action envisaged a needs assessment mission to establish a country programme for Rwanda.

71. The Minister of Justice of Rwanda attended this meeting to provide the Board with an opportunity, prior to the comprehensive assessment, to identify the areas of assistance in the field of human rights to which the Voluntary Fund should give priority under its mandate.

72. After considering the request for assistance submitted by the Government of Rwanda at the end of August 1994 and the new proposal presented by the Minister of Justice, the Board recommended that priority be given to the request of the Minister of Justice and that an amount of US$ 100,000 be approved immediately (before the needs assessment mission and formalization and implementation of a country programme), in order to support the restructuring process needed at the Ministry of Justice, specifically by making experts available to advise the Minister and train the staff.

73. The Board requested the secretariat to prepare and present, before the end of its session, a proposal to implement the above-mentioned project, within the allocated budget of $100,000.

74. The Board recommended the creation of 10 awards, to be given to 5 persons/groups in Rwanda and 5 persons/groups in Burundi under the auspices of the Secretary-General, in order to reward courageous and humanitarian acts which crossed the barriers of tribal and ethnic animosity, thus making for an atmosphere more conducive to peace and coexistence. An advisory committee might be appointed for the selection of the nominees. The amount of the award suggested by the Board was US$ 500 each. The Board requested the secretariat to obtain the advice of the Legal Office to confirm if the awards could be distributed under the auspices of the Secretary-General.

75. The Board adopted a draft decision on assistance to Rwanda, under agenda item 5. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter I, decision 1994/5.

(h) Caribbean Human Rights Network

76. One of the members of the Board, Mr. Luis Pérez Aguirre, brought to the attention of the Board a letter dated 25 September 1994 from Ms. Wendy Singh, Director of Caribbean Human Rights Network, addressed to him in reference to a negative response of the Centre regarding funding for a seminar on "Criminal justice and the role of sentencing", to be held in Barbados from 15 to 17 September 1994 (TCB/BT2/8/Add.11).

77. The Board heard a statement by the secretariat explaining the course of action taken by the Centre in response to this request. The Board decided to request the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to cover any negative financial consequences for the organizers of the seminar.

78. The Board adopted a draft decision on the Caribbean Human Rights Network, under agenda item 5. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter I, decision 1994/6.

79. The Board was also notified of new requests for assistance from El Salvador, Morocco, Pakistan, Paraguay, Senegal and Zimbabwe. The action the Centre for Human Rights proposed to take in response to these requests met no objection by the Board. Concerning a request from the Arab Institute for Human Rights, the Board expressed no objection to providing further support to the Institute, although it recommended that the secretariat contact the Government of Tunisia to confirm its endorsement of the request.

80. The Board also reviewed and expressed its appreciation of the projects and activities which the Centre had carried out in 1994.

VI. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

81. At the 7th meeting, on 10 November 1994, the Board felt that in order for all technical cooperation activities to yield maximum results, the following general recommendations relating to the policy of the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights must be taken into consideration:

(a) All needs assessments should be conducted in a comprehensive manner in order to ensure that the entire human rights situation is addressed and areas of assistance which have not been requested by the Government, are identified and made the subject of recommendations.

(b) The programme of technical assistance should address the need to promote human rights throughout all sectors of society, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

(c) Evaluation of a project should include the success of activities as well as obstacles and difficulties encountered.

(d) It should be stressed that in the movement of countries towards different economic systems existing human rights structures must not be affected in the pursuit of such systems.

(e) In the provision of technical assistance to establish an ombudsman, it should be noted that one model should not be used exclusively, but the institution should be adapted to reflect the cultural and social realities of the country concerned.

(f) In the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of a project, consultations with and the involvement of all types of non-governmental organizations should be considered.

(g) In the formulation of technical assistance activities, special attention must be given to confidence-building measures which serve to foster cohesion between conflicting groups within a specific society.

VII. PRESS CONFERENCE

82. On 9 November 1994, the Board of Trustees held a press conference with H.E. Mr. A.M. Nkubito, Minister of Justice of Rwanda. The Chairperson of the Board made a statement on the work of the second session of the Board, including its decision on the assistance to Rwanda under the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation.

VIII. REVIEW OF THE PROCEDURE OF THE VOLUNTARY FUND

83. The Board considered agenda item 6 during the 6th meeting of its second session as follow-up to the decisions made on the same subjects during its first session. Attention was drawn to the request to the Board made by the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1994/69 to establish an efficient and flexible project preparation, implementation and evaluation procedure. In this regard, the attention of the Board was drawn to the document entitled "Standard procedure for project preparation" (TCB/BT1/1/Annex 1) and to the document entitled "Projects referred to the Board of Trustees (March to present) (TCB/BT2/7).

(a) Standard procedure for project preparation

84. The Board heard statements from the secretariat describing the application of the procedure in practice in regard to the projects which had been referred to the Board since March 1994. The secretariat introduced a revised procedure for project preparation (TCB/BT2/9), which was intended to simplify the original procedure and adapt it to the need for a more efficient operation of the Fund.

85. The Board discussed its role in the consideration of the action to be taken in response to a request and in the endorsement of a project document. It was the unanimous view of the Board that it should be duly informed of and given a chance to intervene in regard to all requests for assistance received by the Centre for Human Rights. The Board also expressed its wish to be informed of the decision on the source of funding once a project had been prepared.

86. The Board reviewed step by step the proposed revised procedure, made recommendations, and decided to review the procedure further at its third session.

(b) Standard procedure for implementation and evaluation

87. The Board recommended that evaluation of projects such as country programmes be conducted regularly, at least once a year, by a team that included an external expert. The Board requested the Technical Cooperation Branch of the Centre for Human Rights to elaborate criteria for project evaluation.

88. As the responsibilities of the Board extended to the review of progress made in project implementation and of project results, in particular for multi-year programmes which required constant monitoring and securing of financial resources, the Board reiterated its request that the secretariat provide, on a regular basis, an updated list of all projects and activities to the Board.

89. The Board adopted a draft decision relating to the procedure for preparation and evaluation of projects, under agenda item 6. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter I, decision 1994/8.

(c) Guidelines for the formulation of the projects

90. During its first session, the Board decided that the existing guidelines, based upon UNDP guidelines, should be used until a revision was approved by the Board.

91. The secretariat informed the Board that the Branch was organizing, in cooperation with the International Training Centre of ILO at Turin, a workshop on the management of the project cycle. Professional staff of the Branch would participate in the workshop and elaborate guidelines for the formulation of projects.

IX. CRITERIA FOR PROJECT SELECTION

92. At its first session, the Board had adopted a list of "Substantive criteria and other considerations" (TCB/BT1/1/Annex 5).

93. The attention of the Board was drawn to Commission resolution 1993/87, in which the Commission had requested the Secretary-General with the assistance of the Board, to guarantee transparency of the criteria applied and of the rules of procedure to be followed in carrying out technical cooperation, as well as to Commission resolution 1994/69, in which it had urged the Board to review the existing project guidelines with a view to establishing clear criteria for selecting and defining priorities for projects.

94. The Board reviewed the criteria and decided to continue to apply them in defining priorities for projects.

95. The Board adopted a draft decision relating to the criteria, under agenda item 6. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter I, decision 1994/9.

X. SECRETARIAT OF THE VOLUNTARY FUND

96. During its first session, the Board requested the Technical Cooperation Branch to set up a secretariat which would provide support to the work of the Board. The Chairperson also drew attention to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/69, in which the Commission had requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary administrative assistance for the Board to fulfil its mandate.

97. In that regard, the Board regretted that since his departure in April 1994, no successor to the previous Coordinator of the Voluntary Fund had been appointed. That absence had affected the work of the Board. In view of the additional work required for the coordination of the Fund between the secretariat and the Board, and between the secretariat and contributing Governments, as well as for coordinating fund-raising activities, the Board reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to facilitate its efforts to appoint a coordinator of the Voluntary Fund, who would also act as secretary of the Board.

98. The Board adopted a draft decision under agenda item 8. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter I, decision 1994/7.

XI. TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPENSES

99. During the 4th meeting of its second session, the Board requested that telecommunications expenses relating to the work of the Board be reimbursed. A representative of the Financial Resources Management Service stated that those telecommunications expenses could be reimbursed in accordance with the principles/guidelines for reimbursement which would be prepared by the Service and transmitted to the Board.

100. The draft decision under agenda item 8 was adopted by consensus. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter I, decision 1994/10.

XII. DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRD SESSION

101. The Board decided that it would hold its sessions twice a year and that the third session would in principle take place from 13 to 17 February 1995, subject to the availability of the members, to coincide with the presentation of its report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session.

102. The Board adopted a draft decision under agenda item 9. For the text of the decision as adopted, see chapter I, decision 1994/12.

XIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

103. On 10 November 1994, the Board considered the draft report on the work of its second session. The draft report, as amended in the course of the discussion, was adopted.

Annex I

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VOLUNTARY FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

SECOND SESSION (7-10 November 1994)

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of agenda.

3. Organization of the work of the session.

4. Financial situation of the Fund.

5. Consideration of projects and related activities

   (a) Status of projects and activities;

   (b) Projects to be endorsed by the Board.

6. Review of the procedure of the Fund and criteria for project selection.

7. Role of the Board in fund-raising.

8. Other matters.

9. Date and venue of the next session.

10. Report of the Board to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session.

Date	(Mon) 7/11	(Tues) 8/11	(Wed) 9/11	(Thurs) 10/11	(Fri) 11/11
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Item 1, 2, 3	Item 5 (4)	Item 5	Item 8, 9, 10	10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Meeting with donors
3 p.m.-6 p.m.	Item 4, 7, 5	Item 5	Item 6	Item 8, 9, 10	

Annex II

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VOLUNTARY FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

SECOND SESSION (7-10 November 1994)

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Item 2

TCB/BT2/1	Provisional agenda
TCB/BT2/1/Add.1	Agenda annotations

Item 4

TCB/BT2/2	List of pledges and contributions to the Fund
TCB/BT2/3	Statements of accounts for each ongoing project
TCB/BT2/4	Statements of income and expenditure as prepared by Headquarters
TCB/BT2/5	Status of the Fund
TCB/BT2/6	Financial report on the regular budget

Item 5

TCB/BT2/7	Projects and related activities referred to the Board of Trustees since March 1994
TCB/BT2/8	Technical cooperation activities (new requests, projects in hand, completed projects)
TCB/BT2/8/Add.1	Project document for Burundi
TCB/BT2/8/Add.2	Project document for Malawi
TCB/BT2/8/Add.4	Project document for Mongolia
TCB/BT2/8/Add.5	Project document for Nepal
TCB/BT2/8/Add.6	Project document for the Russian Federation
TCB/BT2/8/Add.7	Evaluation report on the Arab Institute for Human Rights
TCB/BT2/8/Add.8	Request from Rwanda

Item 6

TCB/BT1/1	Report of the first session of the Board
TCB/BT1/1/Annex 1	Standard procedure for project preparation
TCB/BT1/1/Annex 5	Substantive criteria and other considerations
TCB/BT2/9	Revised procedure for project preparation
TCB/BT2/10	Report of the Office of Investigation and Inspection on administrative practices of the Centre for Human Rights and a reply of the Centre
TCB/BT3	Report on the current structures and status of the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights

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